

REMARKS**Summary of the Office Action**

In the Office Action, the title of the invention is objected to as allegedly not being descriptive.

The drawings are objected to as allegedly failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5).

Claims 1-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,512,337 to Hirano et al. (hereinafter "Hirano").

Summary of the Response to the Office Action

Applicants have amended the title of the invention and submit herewith replacement drawing sheets. Applicants have amended claim 1 in order to differently describe an embodiment of the invention and have canceled claims 5, 18-19 and 23-30 without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, claims 1-4, 6-17 and 20-22 remain pending for consideration.

Objection to the Title

The title of the invention is objected to as allegedly not being descriptive. Applicants have amended the title of the invention in accordance with the Examiner's suggested new title. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to the title be withdrawn.

The Objection to the Drawings

The drawings are objected to as allegedly failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5). The Office Action alleges that reference character 13I of Fig. 17 and reference characters 13K, 13L, 13M and 13N of Fig. 19 are not mentioned in the description. In a Submission of Replacement

Drawing Sheets filed concurrently herewith, Applicants have replaced the reference number “13I” in Fig. 17 with --13J-- and have deleted the reference numbers 13K, 13L, 13M and 13N from Fig. 19 to be consistent with the disclosure in the specification. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

The Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Hirano. Applicants have canceled claims 5, 18-19 and 23-30 without prejudice or disclaimer, rendering the rejections of these claims moot. To the extent that this rejection might still apply to the remaining claims, as newly-amended, it is respectfully traversed as follows.

Independent claim 1 of the instant application has been newly amended to recite a plasma display panel combination that includes the features that “at least one of said first and second electrodes comprises a base portion extending in said first direction, a first portion being in the form of a line extending in said first direction and positioned apart from said base portion in said second direction, and defining a discharge gap between itself and an adjacent electrode, and a second portion continuously and radially extending from said first portion up to said base portion.”

Applicants respectfully submit that one of important features of the subject invention, as recited in newly-amended claim 1, is that the plasma display panel includes an electrode including first and second portions and a base portion, in which the second portion continuously and radially extends from the first portion up to the base portion. According to the feature, a discharge can be stably generated and the discharge can efficiently expand in a column direction (the first direction) and a row direction (the second direction). In this respect, the specification of the instant application describes, for example, at lines 17-19 of page 17, that a discharge can

be stably generated, and the discharge can be expanded to distal ends of the second portion 13 in the column direction, even when the voltage at which the discharge is generated is low.

Applicants respectfully submit that Hirano discloses an electrode (7j) having radially extending portions in Fig. 15. However, the electrode (7j) has parts extending in parallel to the longitudinal axis of the data electrode (2). Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that Hirano's electrode (7j) does not have a section that continuously and radially extends from the first section (51) up to the trace electrode (8a). In this respect, Hirano describes at lines 60-64 of column 18 that the second section 52 has inclined parts extending aslant from a position on the longitudinal central axis of the cell of the first section 51 to respective lateral parts extending longitudinally along the opposite lateral sides of the data electrode 2.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) should be withdrawn because Hirano does not teach or suggest each feature of independent claim 1, as amended. As pointed out in MPEP § 2131, "[t]o anticipate a claim, the reference must teach every element of the claim." Thus, "[a] claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference. Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. Of California, 2 USPQ 2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987)." Furthermore, Applicants respectfully assert that dependent claims 2-4, 6-17 and 20-22 are allowable at least because of the dependence from independent claim 1, as amended, and the reasons set forth above.

Conclusions

In view of the foregoing, withdrawal of the rejections and objections and allowance of the pending claims are earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues

outstanding after consideration of the response, the Examiner is invited to contact the

Applicants' undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: December 29, 2004

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IN THE DRAWINGS:

Please replace the reference number “13I” in Fig. 17 with --13J-- and delete the reference numbers 13K, 13L, 13M and 13N in Fig. 19, as reflected in the Submission of Replacement Drawing Sheets filed concurrently herewith.